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IN THE UNITED STATES PATE In re Continuation Application of: Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al. Based On Serial No. 08/160,909) Art Unit: 1107 Which Was Filed: December 3, 1993) Examiner: Wilczewski For: METHOD OF FABRICATING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES

AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A SEMICONDUCTOR

) Date: August 2, 1996

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 [14] wherein said vacuum apparatus, said irradiation apparatus and said preliminary chamber can be

